

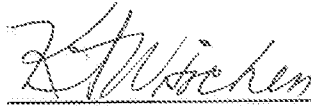
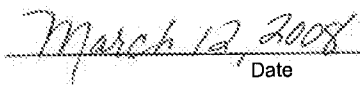
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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW		Docket Number (Optional) P21729.02	
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	First Named Inventor Steve Golden		
	Art Unit 3773	Examiner Julian W. Woo	
Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.			
This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.			
The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s). Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.			
I am the			
<input type="checkbox"/> applicant/inventor.		Signature	
<input type="checkbox"/> assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96)		Katrina A. Witschen Typed or printed name	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent of record. 59,862 Registration number _____		763-505-8418 Telephone number	
<input type="checkbox"/> attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34. Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____		 Date	
NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.			
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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Steve Golden et. al

Examiner: Julian W. Woo

Serial No.: 10/715,797

Group Art Unit: 3773

Filing Date: 11-18-2003

Docket No.: P21729.02

Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR ANASTOMOSIS

MS After Final

Commissioner for Patents

PO Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW--ARGUMENTS

Applicants request review of the final rejection of claims 64, 66-75, 124-127, 129-132, 135-137 and 139-141 in the above-identified application. These claims, as they appear in the Listing of the Claims on pages 2-7 of the Amendment and Response filed August 20, 2007 were rejected in the Final Office Action mailed November 14, 2007.

Claims 64, 124, 125, 127 and 129-131 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Swanson *et al* (US 6,113,612). In the Final Office Action at page 2 it was advanced, "Swanson *et al* disclose, at least in figures 7-11 and in col. 6, line 28 to col. 7, line 34, lines 31-45; a method for performing an anastomosis on a vessel wall, while maintaining blood flow within the vessel, where the method includes positioning a cannula (110)...the cannula or tubular member being introduced (i.e., inserted) or delivered into the vessel wall from the interior of the vessel". This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 64 recites "the cannula is introduced into the vessel wall from the interior of the vessel" and this is not disclosed or suggested in Swanson *et al*. The previous Office Action dated April 19, 2007 stated at page 3 that tube 240 of Swanson *et al* is positioned in the vessel wall from the interior of the vessel using guidewire 210, which is in the interior of the vessel. Applicants argued in a response dated August 20, 2007 that

Serial No. 10/715,797

Dkt.: P21729.02

Filing Date: November 18, 2003

Title: Apparatus and Methods for Anastomosis

Swanson *et al* does not introduce tube 240 into a vessel wall from the interior of the vessel as set forth in amended claim 64. (Applicants' Amendment and Response After Non-Final Rejection p. 9). In response, the Final Rejection at p. 7 stated, "Swanson *et al* indeed disclose a cannula (110)...."

It is respectfully submitted that this substantively changes the rejection of claim 64 in that the Final Rejection is reading the reference in a different fashion than the original Office Action. In the first Office Action of April 19, 2007 at page 3, the Examiner posits that the cannula is element 240, the tube, of Swanson *et al*. Whereas in the Final Office Action at page 2, the Examiner references element 110, the balloon, of Swanson *et al* as being the purported cannula. Applicants were not given a chance to respond to this substantively changed rejection prior to it being made final. As a result, it was improper to make this rejection final. Further, component 110 of Swanson *et al* is a balloon. It is not a cannula as alleged in the Final Rejection. Regardless, neither the tube 240 nor the balloon 110 of Swanson *et al* is disclosed as being introduced into the vessel wall *from the interior of the vessel*. Swanson *et al* do not disclose a cannula being introduced into a vessel from the interior of the vessel and no citation was provided in support of the notion that Swanson *et al* so disclose the claimed invention.

Likewise, Claim 127 sets forth "passing the first end of the tubular member from the interior of the vessel through the vessel wall at a first vessel wall location..." It is respectfully submitted that Swanson *et al* do not disclose this step. If the Examiner disagrees, the Applicants respectfully request clarification as to how this disclosure is being read on claim 127. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under Swanson *et al* is requested.

Claims 66-74, 126, 132, 135-137 and 139-141 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by LeMole (U.S. Patent No. 5,893,369). Claim 66 recites in part "anastomosing a graft to the vessel at the opening". In contrast, LeMole attaches

Serial No. 10/715,797

Dkt.: P21729.02

Filing Date: November 18, 2003

Title: Apparatus and Methods for Anastomosis

graft 14 to vessel 12 before forming an opening in the vessel (see, e.g., column 5, line 34-column 6, line 36). Therefore, LeMole does not disclose or suggest the method claimed in claim 66. The Final Rejection stated at p. 7, "LeMole indeed discloses forming an opening in the vessel wall before and during anastomosing a graft to the vessel at the opening. That is, forming the opening complete the anastomosing process by forming a flow path between the graft and the vessel." However, no citation to LeMole was set forth in support of this argument. Indeed, LeMole does not disclose forming an opening prior to anastomosing a graft to a vessel. The Final Rejection argument ignores that claim 66 recites "a method for performing an anastomosis ... *while maintaining blood flow within the vessel*" LeMole cannot both form a flow path and also maintain blood flow through that path. A blood flow path must be created prior to the maintaining of blood flow through that path. As a result, the rejection is not clear. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections based on LeMole are requested.

Claim 75 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over LeMole in view of Ho *et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,514, 265). As advanced by the Examiner in the Final Office Action, "Ho et al. teach...fastening the walls of a graft and a vessel together using self-closing fasteners 210. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, in view of Ho et al., to modify the method of LeMole, so that self-closing fasteners are applied for the fastening of a graft to a vessel." Claim 75 indirectly depends from claim 66. Ho *et al* is not presented as an attempt to make up for the deficiencies in the LeMole rejection noted above in connection with claim 66. Indeed, Ho *et al* do not make up for the deficiencies in LeMole as explained above therefore a prima facie case of obviousness has not been established. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection based on LeMole in view of Ho *et al* is requested.

ARGUMENTS ACCOMPANYING PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Page 4

Serial No. 10/715,797

Dkt.: P21729.02

Filing Date: November 18, 2003

Title: Apparatus and Methods for Anastomosis

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney at (763) 505-8418 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

A Notice of Appeal accompanies this Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 12, 2008

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